

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

Estimates of the number of mature trees infested with the Asian longhorned beetle in an industrial area of eastern Linden have been revised to approximately 150. Initially set at between 50 and 60, additional survey work this past week has resulted in that number being revised upward.

Many of the infested trees found in eastern Linden bore signs of long-term infestation, such as healed-over exit holes, suggesting the infestation dates back at least six or seven years. Efforts are ongoing to arrange for all the infested trees in this newly found area to be taken down before the end of June to avoid giving beetles time to emerge for another season.

Efforts also are continuing to trace back the source of the beetle. The new area does not include any residential sections, but is home to several industrial sites. Program personnel are centering their trace-back efforts on whether the beetle could have entered in untreated wooden packing material pre-dating regulations prohibiting the use of such materials.

Delimiting work continues to determine the exact extent of the quarantine zone expansion required by the new find in eastern Linden. The expansion is not expected to add any other New Jersey municipalities not already touched by the quarantine. However, it is expected to include some areas that would be under the jurisdiction of New York State.

Peter's-Todd's Tree Service removed 128 host trees during the week of April 10 along the Amtrak railroad in the Middlesex/Union County quarantine zone. A total of 645 trees have been removed from Amtrak property. The total number of trees removed from the Middlesex/Union quarantine area now stands at 16,191.

Meanwhile, treatments with the pesticide imidacloprid are being planned for 2,200 trees in a half-mile radius around the tree in northern Linden that was found infested with the ALB on March 23.